

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A cipher key used for encoding and decoding of data is stored in a cipher key memory unit. A cipher
5 encode unit encodes data input from an upper apparatus via a host interface using the cipher key and records it onto a record medium. A cipher
decode unit decodes the encoded data read out from the record medium using the cipher key and outputs
10 it via the host interface to the upper apparatus. When a magnetic disk apparatus is discarded, the decoding is made impossible by changing the cipher key stored in the cipher key memory unit with a cipher key change unit.